

PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN  
30 May 1980

## ... Basis 'specious'

**Stephen B. Zatuchni**

The above response to my column on the MX missile is indeed interesting, although not for the reasons Mr. Zeiberg would expect. A few examples will suffice to demonstrate the specious rationale of his comments.

First, CIA estimates of offensive versus defensive capabilities were those released by the CIA to the media. To argue that there is additional information which either mitigates or alters completely the facts that have been supplied previously is, clearly, to argue that the public has been deceived deliberately.

Second, because of a variety of reasons centering primarily upon both elapsed time between Soviet missile launch and detonation over American targets, and "instantly-alerted" manned aircraft versus the necessarily complicated and involved launching of non-recallable missiles, manned aircraft are highly survivable. At least, these are the reasons provided by the Pentagon for both the maintenance of our B-52 force and the continued interest in a new manned bomber.

Third, Soviet satellites would have a far easier time locating MX shelters than they would locating the snorkels of diesel submarines which would be moving constantly in a three-dimensional sphere with substantially greater surface area than that of the MX system. Furthermore, the Navy is currently investigating the possibility of smaller submarines with missiles encapsulated on its outside. And, the Navy is also building submarines that are designed to survive the Soviet anti-submarine warfare capability of the future.

Fourth, the Department of Defense proposal to equip MX shelters with various devices so as to enable them to deceive Soviet surveillance equipment came not with the original MX proposal, but in response to congressional inquiry, after publication of my column.

Finally, it might well be appropriate to build the MX system. However, such a decision cannot be reached until all the facts are revealed and all the alternatives thoroughly investigated.

*(Stephen B. Zatuchni, of King of Prussia, Pa., has a doctorate in strategic studies.)*